

Approved

REGULAR MEETING

April 6, 2015

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, September 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Hemmann, Hurley, Kotkin, Martino, Manousos, Rell, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Barry, and Chairperson Montinieri.

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk.

Councilor Martino led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PUBLIC HEARING

RESOLUTION ENDORSING AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD TO PARTICIPATE IN AN OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMNT REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE (RPI) PROGRAM GRANT FOR A REGIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS LABORATORY

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd told the Town Council to “vote no” on this hearing item. He spoke against taking any grant monies from the State as they do not have any money.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Gus Colantonio 16 Morrison Avenue is not going to stop speaking about the stop sign he would like on Morrison Ave. He is not requesting you remove the ones that exist but wants one where he lives on Morrison.

David Caruk, 149 Broad St, spoke on supporting the board of education budget. He was under the impression the Council was going to vote on the proposed budget as presented tonight.

Regina Vaughn spoke on behalf of school paraprofessionals for blue T shirts to Fight Autism. \$15 each available at all schools. April 29th will be the annual day to wear your blue in support of the children.

Bob Young, 20 Coppermill Rd spoke on the urban outflow of our state; a lot of people and businesses are leaving because of the high taxes. \$300 M received from State is borrowed monies. He supports the resolution to oppose proposed Senate bill 1 and thinks all of the Council should join the members of Council introducing the bill tonight.

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Lee Sekas, 117 Wells Rd spoke in favor of supporting the fundraiser for the Nature Center. It is a dance on April 17, 2015. Everyone should help out and support each other's events as a show of united we stand.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Martino attended the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee and discussed the needs they have with transportation, need to expand for rides at a reasonable rate for activities other than medical.

Mr. Martino also met with People with Disabilities and Curtain transportation.

Councilor Kotkin attended the Library Committee meeting on their budget. They require a total upgrade to their web site.

Also, Mr. Kotkin attended the Insurance Committee and they are working on the wording of the RFP for the insurance claims audit. Claims are not running as well as last year but still are not as bad.

Councilor Roberts attended the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) in March; they are planning a Youth Volunteer Recognition for May 7. On April 20 there is a program for students during the day and for parents in the evening to discuss Internet Safety. Also there will be a \$1000 scholarship; the application deadline was April 7.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Rell stated that DEEP [Department of Environment & Energy] relocated the bear and it is the same bear, it is tagged number 104, as the one in town last year. This time they relocated further away.

Councilor Martino stated Hanmer School *playground needs to be repaired*.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Hemmann moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF PAUL CLOONY –U-FROM THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT "**, seconded by Councilor Rell.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Hemmann moved **"TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF LEW E. MICHAELS –R-TO THE INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION "**, seconded by Councilor Rell

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All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Martino “**Motion to approve the bid from General Paving for \$433,735 for the reconstruction of Fairlane Drive**”, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Town Engineer, Mr. Turner stated: [tabled from previous meeting] This project is the reconstruction of Fairlane Drive (from 200 feet north of Griswold Road to Fox Hill Road). This project uses strictly LOCIP funds from the state, and is a prevailing wage project. Plans and specifications were prepared in house by engineering staff. We received bids from 6 vendors, ranging from this low bid of \$433,735 up to \$797,930. A balance of \$ 392,980 of LOCIP funds is currently available for the completion of this work. The town anticipated \$407,116 of LOCIP funding at development of the budget for this work, however the State reduced the allocation to \$188,620. Mr. Tabshey VP of General Paving has if awarded the bid, agreed to defer construction and his bid prices for construction spring 2015 when the additional LOCIP funding becomes available.

A total of 6 bids were received for this project, with our construction estimate lying at the mid-point of the bids reviewed. The low vendor General Paving of Rocky Hill has previously done work for the Town of Wethersfield, specifically the reconstruction of Church Street, Goff Road, Jordan Lane and numerous road and parking lot reconstruction projects. This vendor is a quality contractor, good with paperwork, fair with change orders, and responsive. Staff recommends award to General Paving & Construction in amount of \$ 433,735, with start of construction delayed until spring of 2015.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Martino “**MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE GRANT FOR A REGIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS LABORATORY**” seconded by Councilor Roberts. .

Acceptance of this grant will allow the purchase of an intrusion detection system at the police department. This system will protect against theft and vandalism to department vehicles / assets, town radio shed and tower, backup generator, as well as commercial communications equipment.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

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Councilor Martino **“MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A STATE GRANT FOR A POLICE AND YOUTH PROGRAM FOR AN AMOUNT UP TO \$10,000 ”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Director Bagley state this grant provides funds to enhance opportunities for youth and police to work together to benefit their community. It would provide interaction with adventure activities, plan activities and develop skills. Goals of the program are to promote positive youth development and to increase the numbers of police officers who are experienced and comfortable working and interacting with youth.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino **“Motion to accept the proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Wethersfield, the Wethersfield Board of Education, and CSEA / SEIU Local 2001, CTW Custodian and Maintenance Union”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

In August of 2012 the Town Council amended the pension plan to exclude newly hired members to this bargaining unit to the defined benefit pension plan. Members to the bargaining unit hired after this date were to be placed in a defined contribution pension plan with the employee paying 4.5% of their salary into the plan. This was not implemented at the time. This agreement settles all issues with the BOE and Town on this matter with the custodians.

This agreement basically provides the same benefits to the Custodial Union members that were rejected by the Union several years ago. The same provisions we asked for a received from the other bargaining units are contained herein. Since the Custodial Union’s contract is silent on pension, this agreement will serve as the memorializing document.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

BIDS

Councilor Martino **“MOTION TO ACCEPT THE BID OF EZ DOCK NORTHEAST (FWM INC.) AS THE LOWEST BIDDER MEETING THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR \$414,100.”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Director of Parks & Recreation & Social & Youth Services Bagley stated the dock replacement project began in 2006. It has received approvals from all the appropriate town boards and commissions. The CT. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has issued a permit for this work and the work has been approved by the Army Corps of Engineers. The new docks will replace the existing wood docks that are deteriorating, need constant maintenance and are under water during high water conditions. The new docks will be made of polyethylene construction, will not splinter, rust or crack with age. The docks will be permanent, year round and will rise and fall with the water level in the Cove. The cost includes the new docks, navigational aids and additional moorings. The Town received a Federal Boating Infrastructure

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grant to help pay for the project.

Three bids were received for this project. The engineering firm, Ocean & Coastal has reviewed the bids with town staff. The recommendation is to award the bid with alternates to EZ Dock Northeast (FWM Inc.), Hudson, New Hampshire at a total cost of \$414,100 because they were the lowest bidder meeting the design specifications for the docks. A key requirement of the design specifications was to construct a new floating dock system which will remain in the water year round. EZ Dock Northeast met this bid specification. Northeast Diving Services does not meet the design specifications (refer to Ocean & Coastal report). Their docks would have to be installed and removed each boating season. The third vendor, Mattern Construction was the highest of the three vendors.

Councilor Kotkin asked about a schedule. Director Bagley said it is built off site in 3 to 4 weeks and brought to the location. They position the docs and anchor them with navigation aids. The best time to install is to have the water level lower, definitely this season.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the total cost was \$700,000 more or less. Director Bagley acknowledged it was the cost.

Councilor Hurley asked if they are left in year round. Director Bagley stated they float ½ inch above the water. Based on history of the cove, they are able to raise and lower with the water. They are designed to be in place. They look like giant elastics that can expand and contract, while fastened to the base sunk into the water.

Chairperson Montinieri asked if they would save time by not having to put them in and out.

Director Bagley stated they would also save on the wear and tear of regular wood docks.

Deputy Mayor Barry asked if they could be removed. Director Bagley stated they are modular docks and could be removed if it need is there.

Councilor Rell asked for information on a warranty for a certain time period. Director Bagley stated there is an 8 year warranty.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino **“MOTION TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM SK MECHANICAL FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE BURNERS IN THE BOILERS AT HANMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR \$33,915”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin .

Director of School Maintenance & Operations Fred Bushey stated the burners are beyond their useful lifespan. If not approved we retained the increased potential for boiler failure due to old burners at Hanmer School.

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Town Manager Bridges stated there is \$67,198.99 in the 1% set aside fund for BOO capital improvements.

Councilor Martino asked if they would be more energy efficient. Mr. Bushey stated about 89% vs. what we now have at 72 %.

Councilor Kotkin wanted to verify the work would be done over the summer. Mr. Bushey replied they need 8 -12 week lead time.

Councilor Kotkin stated it was a little below the estimated amount so it will improve the capital budget for the current year.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino **“MOTION TO ”APPROVE THE CHANGE ORDER FOR THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT/ GYMNASIUM LIGHTS #143 WITH FERGUSON ELECTRIC FOR \$38,219”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

Town Engineer Turner said the Architect has solicited proposals for substitute light fixtures J & J1 and H & H1 fixtures for the gymnasium lighting. The Building Committee at their December 8, 2014 meeting voted to recommend acceptance of PCO 143 from Ferguson Electric in the amount of \$ 38,219.00 for furnishing and installing these lights, and is presently soliciting an offsetting credit for the K lighting fixtures. Mr. Turner further stated this would provide better overhead light for the gym and the credit would be

Staff recommends Town Council approve this work as a change order.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino **“MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A STATE MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORTATION (DIAL – A –RIDE) EXPANSION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,733 FOR WETHERSFIELD AND \$89,436 TOTAL AND TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE TOWNS OF NEWINGTON AND ROCKY HILL TO PROVIDE A TRI-TOWN MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE.”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

Resolution Regarding Opposition to Senate Bill #1

Approved

MINUTES

Councilor Martino “**MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF March 16, 2015**” seconded by Councilor Kotkin as changed at meeting, correct location of decision to table motion.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-1 (Chairperson Montinieri).

Public Comments

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave stated a 4% increase was too much.

David Caruk, 149 Broad St understood that the budget was not finalized tonight. He was confused as to the budget which was proposed and presented briefly tonight and when it would be approved by Town Council.

Bob Young, 20 Coppermill Rd thought the Council had a great time approving grants tonight, commented on the overbuilt high school and the 4.7% budget. The Board money not encumbered should be returned to the Town and the Council should make drastic cuts.

Town Manager Bridges reminded people of the public hearing on the budget April 20, 7 p.m. Council Chambers. Also budget meetings on April 25 and April 30 Council as well as some staff will attend.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 p.m., Councilor Martino moved “**TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**” seconded by Councilor Kotkin. RE: evaluation of Town Manager Jeff Bridges

Councilor Martino “**MOTION TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION TO ENTER PUBLIC SESSION**” seconded by Councilor Kotkin at 9:00 p.m..

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Kotkin “**MOTION TO SET THE TOWN MANAGER’S SALARY AT \$130,000 STARTING JULY 1, 2015**” seconded by Councilor Martino.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Kotkin “**MOTION TO ADJOURN**”, seconded by Councilor Roberts.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

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Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved as corrected by Vote of Council
May 4, 2015

Minutes were amended as follows:

Page 2, under Councilor Comments, addition of the text *playground needs to be repaired* to Councilor Martino's comments.